THE INYO LIBRARY WORKERS
AUGUST, 1931

Statistics gathered for the annual report of the County Library provide some interesting comparisons. Our book collection now contains 10,029 books for adults, 4,625 for children, and 10,240 supplementary texts for schools. This seems to mean that the 891 children in the elementary schools could have 11 texts from the County Library apiece at the same time, while each of the 6,555 inhabitants of the county might be using two books for home reading - one for each hand - and that if all returned their books with equal promptness, they could continue to read two books a day for twenty years. Alas, the problem is not as simple as that; "one man's meat is another man's poison", is as true of mental food as of physical. If we provided the 6,555 with everything they wish to have, we would be buying many more books - as is partly shown by the fact that this year we have borrowed 389 books from other libraries, besides the 1,427 we bought, and the 329 gifts we have received from generous citizens.

Circulation has increased, in spite of the feeling of "Falling to pieces" that we have been suffering; very slightly, to be sure, and chiefly in the towns of Big Pine and Bishop. Independence and Lone Pine showed a decrease. Each year we see a notable improvement in the numbers of non-fiction and the better periodicals read. This may be a reason for a smaller report in fiction, since it takes much longer, usually, to read the former. The children's reading is both bigger and better. Below is a compilation of the record by branches:-

BRANCH	BOOKS SENT	BOOKS RETURNED	AT BRANCH, July 1,'31	CIRCULATION Fiction	Non-Fiction	Magazines	Juvenile
Aberdeen	166	154	176	245			
Big Pine	819	702	1994	4984	1116	2124	2597
Bishop	1193	875	3197	9253	1703	1730	6008
Cartago	99	158	240	350			
Darwin	207	205	111	550			60
Death Valley	180	150	254	660	1		
Haiwee	108	120	131	118	1		
Independence				4085	1547	1349	2381
Lone Pine	649	465	2031	4657	651	487	2069
Olancha	95	102	69	87	2		6
Owenyo	187	169	94	508	6		36
Power Plant	156	166	68	115			
Shoshone	110	109	40	230			5
Tecopa	138	138	113	451	6	6	
Total	4107	3515	8568	26289	5017	5696	13162

Besides this, the schools reported a circulation of 1539, which makes a total home use of 51,703 books.

The branches showing the largest circulation per book in the collection are Big Pine, Bishop, Darwin, Owenyo, and Shoshone, each of these having a circulation of between five and six times a book. Independence is not in this comparison, but has a circulation of about 21 books per capita of population. When the number of books sent, as well as the number usually on hand at the branch, is counted, the ratio is changed: Bishop has an average circulation of 4.3 per book; Big Pine of 3.8, Lone Pine of 2.9, while the little branches, where the change is more rapid and complete, have less than two times for a book. This seems a very small showing.

You will see that some of the little branches report no non-fiction read. Is this because we are not sending you the books your readers would like, or are you failing to report this item?

Mrs. Marion M. Bulpitt substituted very pleasantly in the Bishop Branch for Miss Powers, while the latter journeyed to Oregon to visit her family in their new home.